

South Carolina Public Service Commission
Docketing Department
101 Executive Center Drive, Suite 100
Columbia, SC 29210
Docket No. 2007-445-A

Posted: ledDept: S.A./ORSDate: 10/30/08Time: 1:40

RE: Docket # 2007-445-A

I would like to thank the commission members for the opportunity to address concerns for the proposed regulation that would create a new mode of transportation using stretcher vans.

I am concerned that this change in regulation would reduce the level of care delivered to a vulnerable segment of the population. Many patients currently transported by non-emergent ambulances, and attended by certified health care providers, would no longer qualify for this service under the recommended guidelines. Instead they would be transported on a stretcher van by staff only trained in basic first aid. In particular, the elderly and those on dialysis require careful monitoring following treatments and appointments, and it is my fear that these patients will be the ones that suffer from the proposed regulatory changes.

These changes would also be detrimental to the medical transportation services that work with these populations. These systems not only provide for the medical transportation needs of our communities, but also respond to natural disasters such as hurricanes. Additionally, they would be a critical resource in the case of a man-made disaster or pandemic crisis. A degradation of these systems would have a detrimental effect on public health. The stretcher van proposition would reduce the number of ambulances these services could equip and operate, and could limit their ability to respond when needed.

Thank you for considering our concerns in this matter.

Sincerely,

Edward W. Fingero
Edward W. Fingero, DO
Conway Medical Center
Conway, SC.

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